

**RACISM MANIFESTED IN A FILM ENTITLED
*THE HURRICANE***

THESIS

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ABSTRACT

Rahayu, Marganing. 2013. **Racism Manifested in a Film Entitled *The Hurricane***. English Study Program, Language and Literature Department, Faculty of Culture Studies, University of Brawijaya. Supervisor: Yusri Fajar, M.A. Co-supervisor: Winda Candra Hantari, M.A.

Keywords: racism, film, *The Hurricane*

Racism is the crucial issue in this world and has become a problem since hundreds of years ago. The colonialist who came to America believes that black people are inferior caste in society. This construction is used to legitimize the enslavement of blacks. This leads to the oppression of the whites toward the blacks. As human beings the blacks have no rights to live in freedom and prosperity. In society, they have a lower position than the whites. In contrast of the white still have a higher position than the competent black person. Racial biases against blacks are still apparent today through many different areas of the criminal justice system. The black Americans argue that they are treated unequally and more brutally than the whites at all levels in the criminal justice system as it is portrayed in a film entitled *The Hurricane*. It is a true story movie tells about an African-American boxer named Rubin “Hurricane” Carter. After facing all discrimination, racial injustice and unfair law system with a worst verdict, Rubin is free from the accusation that he killing three white people.

Related to the issue of racism occurs in the movie, Postcolonial theory play a role here to see the relationship between various aspect in life such as social, political, intellectual, psychological, and especially in the case of law. In racism, the whites limit the black people’ lives so they have no freedom in their own life. It is the different skin color that makes the blacks got different treatments which tend to be negative from the whites. Racist attitudes are considered as laws, religion, and everyday practice which influence all of the aspects of life. As it is shown in the movie, Rubin had many obstacles in his life since he was a kid caused by racial discrimination. The racial discrimination is maintained by white supremacy to control their power and to eliminate the opportunity for colored people.

This research result (1) Many conflicts in it are the result of prejudice and discrimination against blacks and portrayed through such ways as personal life, legal law, appearance, and even the setting and the assumption of the distinction becomes crucial. (2) The physical appearance becomes the most important factor in this movie. Racism usually stems of ignorance. It its the assumption that the color of one’s skin has something to do with intelligence.

ABSTRAK

Rahayu, Marganing. 2013. **Racism Manifested in a Film Entitled *The Hurricane***. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing: (I) Yusri Fajar, M.A. (II) Winda Candra Hantari, M.A.

Kata Kunci: racism, film, *The Hurricane*

Rasisme adalah masalah yang krusial di dunia ini dan telah menjadi masalah sejak ratusan tahun lalu. Para kolonialis yang datang ke Amerika percaya bahwa orang kulit hitam adalah kasta rendah dalam masyarakat. Konstruksi ini digunakan untuk melegitimasi perbudakan kulit hitam. Hal ini menyebabkan penindasan kulit putih terhadap kulit hitam. Sebagai manusia, kaum kulit hitam tidak memiliki hak untuk hidup dalam kebebasan dan kemakmuran. Dalam masyarakat, mereka memiliki posisi yang lebih rendah dari kulit putih. Kontrasnya kaum kulit putih masih memiliki posisi yang lebih tinggi daripada orang kulit hitam yang kompeten. Bias rasial terhadap kulit hitam masih terlihat hari ini melalui berbagai bidang sistem peradilan pidana. Kulit hitam di Amerika menyatakan bahwa mereka diperlakukan berbeda dan lebih brutal daripada kulit putih di semua tingkat dalam sistem peradilan pidana seperti yang digambarkan dalam film berjudul *The Hurricane*. Ini adalah film kisah nyata, menceritakan tentang seorang petinju Afrika-Amerika bernama Rubin "Hurricane" Carter. Setelah menghadapi semua diskriminasi, ketidakadilan rasial dan sistem hukum yang tidak adil dengan vonis terburuk, Rubin bebas dari tuduhan bahwa dia membunuh tiga orang kulit putih.

Terkait dengan isu rasisme yang terjadi di film, teori postkolonial berperan di sini untuk melihat hubungan antara berbagai aspek dalam kehidupan seperti sosial, politik, intelektual, psikologis, dan terutama dalam kasus hukum. Dalam rasisme, kaum kulit putih membatasi kehidupan orang kulit hitam sehingga mereka tidak memiliki kebebasan dalam hidup mereka sendiri. Warna kulit yang berbeda membuat orang kulit hitam mendapat perlakuan yang berbeda yang cenderung negatif dari kulit putih. Seperti yang terlihat dalam film, Rubin memiliki banyak rintangan dalam hidupnya semenjak ia masih kecil oleh diskriminasi rasial.

Hasil penelitian (1) Banyak konflik di dalam film ini adalah hasil dari prasangka dan diskriminasi terhadap orang kulit hitam dan digambarkan melalui berbagai hal seperti dalam kehidupan pribadi, hukum, penampilan, dan bahkan pengaturan dan asumsi perbedaan menjadi penting. (2) Penampilan fisik menjadi faktor yang paling penting dalam film ini. Rasisme berasal dari cara berfikir seseorang yang tidak kompeten. Ini merupakan asumsi bahwa warna kulit seseorang memiliki sesuatu untuk dihubungkan dengan kecerdasan.

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